WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method, comprising the steps of:

   5   detecting a new device context for a device, wherein said device is associated with an identity; and

             mapping said new device context to an identity context for said identity.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein said step of detecting said new device context

   10   for said device includes detecting said new device context in a presence and availability service.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein said step of detecting said new device context for said device includes receiving a request to change said device's device context.

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4.   The method of claim 1, wherein said step of mapping said new device context to said identity context for said identity includes determining said identity.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein said step of mapping said new device context

   20   to said identity context for said identity includes determining said identity context.

6.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

             determining said identity.

   25   7.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

             determining said identity context.

8.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

             providing data indicative of said identity context.

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9.   The method of claim 8, wherein said step of providing data indicative of said identity context includes providing said data indicative of said identity context to an

identity context oriented application.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of :

receiving a request to make a change to new identity context for an identity; and

mapping said new identity context to a device context for a device associated with said identity.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

receiving a request to make a change to new identity context for a second identity; and

mapping said new identity context to a device context for a device associated with said second identity.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said step of receiving said request to make said change to new identity context for said second identity includes receiving said request from an identity context oriented application.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein said step of mapping said new identity context to said device context for said device associated with said second identity includes determining said device associated with said second identity.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said step of mapping said new identity context to said device context for said device associated with said second identity includes determining said device context associated with said device associated with said second identity.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein said step of mapping said new identity context to said device context for said device associated with said second identity includes accessing a mapping table.

16. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

providing data indicative of said device context to a presence and availability service.

17. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

changing an identity context for said second identity from a first context to a said new context in response to said request.

18. A method, comprising the steps of:

detecting a new device context for a device in a presence and availability service, wherein said device is associated with an identity;

mapping said new device context to an identity context for said identity;

providing data indicative of said identity context to an identity context oriented application.

19. An article of manufacture comprising:

a computer readable medium having stored thereon instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause said processor to:

detect a new device context for a device, wherein said device is associated with an identity; and

map said new device context to an identity context for said identity.

20. An apparatus, including:

a processor;

a communication port coupled to said processor and adapted to communicate with at least one device; and

a storage device coupled to said processor and storing instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:

detect a new device context for a device, wherein said device is associated with an identity; and

map said new device context to an identity context for said identity.